

PRESS RELEASE

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I-85 WELCOME CENTER TO REOPEN BY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Lavonia, GA – The Georgia Welcome Center on Interstate 85 south in Lavonia is not welcoming and remains closed. The renovation work was scheduled to be finished in mid-September but additional problems arose once construction began.

Major renovations are now underway to make the Welcome Center Welcoming – replacing most major systems in the building. “We are working to open the Welcome Center for Thanksgiving Holiday Travel. Major plumbing issues found after work started required the installation of a new water line into the building. Delays in material deliveries also slowed work. Improvements are being made from the roof to the parking lot and down to the water lines, improvements. New HVAC, new drywall and painting are all part of the renovations. The Welcome Center will also become more environmentally responsible with low flow, automatic flush valve toilets, LED lighting inside and outside. The new inside lights will have occupancy sensors so the lights will turn off automatically,” explained Georgia DOT District Engineer serving Hart County, Brent Cook.

Prime Contractors of Powder Springs will be doing the work for \$720,000. The Welcome Center will reopen by Thanksgiving. Motorists will not be able to access the Welcome Center driveway, parking areas or building during the construction. The signage pointing visitors to the Welcome Center are covered and the entrance is blocked. The 16,640 square foot Welcome Center opened in 1996.

DriveAlert ArriveAlive calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. ***DriveAlert ArriveAlive*** implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA For more information about Georgia DOT, visit www.dot.ga.gov or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE) (<https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE>) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GDOTNE) (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNE>).

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